

From: Jason Bram [mailto:bram@lifesci.ucsb.edu]
Sent: Friday, June 09, 2006 12:57 PM
To: jugoretz@dfg.ca.gov
Cc: Melissa Miller-Henson; fgc@fgc.ca.gov; Mary Delaney; canestro
Subject:

Dear John Ugoretz,

I am writing to encourage you to keep the Ken Norris Rancho Marino MPA in Cambria as part of the F&G Department's preferred alternative for a network of MPAs in the Central Coast Study Region. As you know, it is already in the preferred alternative forwarded by the BRTF to the Fish and Game Commission.

As project manager for a research group at UC Santa Barbara, as well as an adjunct professor who brings his class regularly to the Rancho Marino intertidal, it is a great resource for both research and education, and establishing Rancho Marino as an MPA would only enhance its use in both of these areas.

We have ongoing intertidal monitoring projects occurring at Rancho Marino, and many students have used the site to conduct their own research projects. Rancho Marino provides a habitat and area that is conducive for this kind of work. I truly hope that the reserve is established for the enhancement of continued intertidal and subtidal projects. Additionally, the linkage between the terrestrial and marine habitats at this site provides unique opportunities for education and research, and establishing a MPA there would only augment these opportunities.

In closing, I hope the department optimizes the socio-economic benefits of keeping the Ken Norris Rancho Marino Reserve as part of their preferred network of MPAs in the Central Coast. The positive benefits of this MPA for public education (important political support for F&G) and research (critical for the F&G decision making) far outweigh any potential short term negative impacts to fishermen. Personally speaking, my experience with this site has provided an incredible opportunity that has been truly appreciated by myself and my students.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Jason Bram
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